

Application No. 10/824620  
Amendment dated July 24, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2006

Docket No.: 32140-200520

**REMARKS**

Claim 1-9 are pending in this application. No claims are amended.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Clement for recognizing allowable subject matter in claims 2, 3 and 6-8.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,866,513 to Hornfeck et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 includes a breech mechanism shaft that activates the closing wedge. The breech mechanism shaft is connected to a control lever. The control lever is pivoted during the counter-recoil motion of the barrel and the breech mechanism shaft is turned to move the closing wedge to an opened position.

In contrast, Hornfeck does not disclose a control lever that is pivoted during counter-recoil or a breech mechanism shaft that is turned to move a closing wedge.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Hornfeck does not disclose each and every feature of claims 1, 4, 5 and 9 and, therefore, rejection under 35 USC §102(b) is inappropriate. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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